Government to acquire nuclear powered submarines capable of employing nuclear weapons; and

(b) if so, the details and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) It will not be in the national interest to disclose any information on the Floor of the House.

Conduct of exercises by Singapore Air Force over Indian air space

319. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Singapore Air Force has been allowed to conduct exercises over the Indian air space and their army has also been given permission to carry out training exercises on Indian soil; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement concluded with Singapore and the reasons for allowing a foreign country to use Indian air space and land for their military exercises?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

MiG aircrafts with IAF

†320. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of MiG aircrafts in the fleet of Indian Air Force; how old this fleet is;

(b) whether accidents in MiG aircrafts have become a common feature; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry of Defence is planning to procure aircrafts with better technology after removing MiG aircrafts from its fleet; if so, by when; and

(d) the number of pilots and common people killed in aircraft accidents together with the losses suffered by the Air Force due to these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Indian Air Force (IAF) have adequate number of MiG aircraft along with

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

other aircraft to safeguard the interest of our country. However, the exact number of such aircraft can not be divulged in the interest of national security. The MiG fleet was inducted in Indian Air Force from the year 1964 to 1986.

(b) No, Sir. In fact, there has been a definite decline in the number of MiG aircraft accidents in the recent past.

(c) Modernization and upgradation of IAF fleet is a continuous process.

(d) A total number of 157 pilots and 35 civilians were killed, in the MiG aircraft accidents since 1971, while IAF suffered a loss of Rs. 17,68,00,11,086/-.

Project to manufacture Arjun Tank

†321. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project to manufacture Arjun Tank has not been able to achieve its proposed target;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Combat Vehicle Research and Development Institute, Avadi has manufactured only four Arjun Tanks instead of 125; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Main Battle Tank Arjun has been successfully developed by DRDO and it is under production at Heavy Vehicle Factory (HVF) Avadi—a unit of Ordnance Factory Board.

(c) and (d) The Arjun Tank has been designed and developed by Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment Avadi, **a** laboratory of DRDO. The Army placed an indent in March 2000 for manufacture of 124 tanks on HVF, Avadi. The production schedule has been drawn. There has been initial delay in supply of the first lot to the Army due to a number of changes suggested by the Army in the course of trials. The changes have been incorporated and the first lot of 5 tanks is ready for delivery to Army.

New ensigns, flags and pendants for the Indian Navy

322. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.